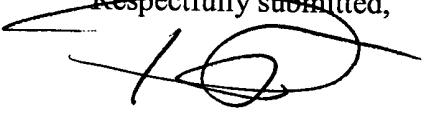


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed to indicate that the application is a continuation application of co-pending reissue patent application no. 09/796,685, filed on February 28, 2001.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick R. Jewik
Reg. No. 40,456

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 415-576-0200
Fax: 415-576-0300
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